

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PEKING 00817 270923Z
ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 PA-01 USIA-06 NSC-05 INR-05
CIAE-00 NSAE-00 SP-02 /040 W
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P 270911Z MAR 78
FM USLO PEKING
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0233

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 0817

LIMDIS

FOR EA/PRCM

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SOPN PROP CH
SUBJ: POSSIBLE OPENING OF ASSOCIATED PRESS BUREAU IN PEKING

1. USLO HAS HEARD SECONDHAND THAT MR. JOHN MCGEE, CHAIRMAN OF CLAY COMMUNICATIONS IN CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA, AND A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ASSOCIATED PRESS, HAS JUST COMPLETED TALKS WITH NEW CINA NEWS AGENCY ON THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING AN ASSOCIATED PRESS BUREAU IN PEKING. MCGEE HAD BEEN INVITED TO THE PRC BY NCNA AND LEFT PEKING ON MARCH 27.

2. ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMANT, MCGEE ENTHUSIASTICALLY NOTED THE DIFFERENCE IN ATMOSPHERE BETWEEN HIS TALKS AND THOSE CONDUCTED BY THE AP BOARD LAST FALL. (COMMENT: CHINESE OFFICIALS HAD THEN UTILIZED THE AP BOARD TO NOTE THEIR DISENCHANTMENT WITH US PRESS PLAY ON SECRETARY VANCE'S VISIT TO THE PRC.) WITHOUT REVEALING DETAILS OF HIS TALKS, MCGEE PREDICTED THAT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ESTABLISH AN AP BUREAU IN PEKING WITHIN THE YEAR "REGARDLESS OF WHETHER NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS HAS OCCURRED."

3. DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO CONTACT MCGEE REGARDING HIS TALKS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
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Draft Date: 27 mar 1978
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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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